

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03789 01 OF 02 281647Z

42

ACTION NEA-01

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O R 281610Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9807
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USINT BAGHDAD

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 3789

USIA FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, XF, LE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: AMBASSADOR BROWN ACTIVITIES

1. SUMMARY. PAPERS CARRY GENERALLY ACCURATE ACCOUNTS
AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE MELOY'S SENATE TESTIMONY AND REPORT
SYRIAN-INSPIRED AND PLO STATEMENTS CRITICAL OF U.S. TWO
LARGE WEEKLIES CARRY ARTICLES PURPORTING TO REVEAL SOME OF
AMBASSADOR BROWN'S THOUGHTS FOR SOLUTION OF LEBANESE CRISIS
AND HIS OPINIONS OF LEBANESE LEADERS. END SUMMARY.

2. MOST PAPERS PUBLISH GENERALLY ACCURATE WIRE SERVICE
ACCOUNTS OF SENATE TESTIMONY BY AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE
MELOY, THOUGH ONE OR TWO MANAGE TO DISTORT THEM VIA
HEADLINES OR INTERPRETIVE SECTIONS. EXAMPLE OF LATTER
IS LEFTIST PRO-SYRIAN "AS SAFIR" WHICH REPORTS: "NEW
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO BEIRUT FRANCIS MELOY, EVEN
BEFORE TAKING UP HIS DUTIES, MADE ATTACK ON
PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE IN LEBANON AND DESCRIBED IT
AS STATE WITHIN STATE. ATTACK WAS MADE BY MELOY
DURING HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03789 01 OF 02 281647Z

COMMITTEE, WHICH APPROVED HIS NOMINATION."

3. PRESS CONTINUED TO REPORT DRUMFIRE OF PUBLIC CRITICISM BY PRO-SYRIAN AND PLO LEADERS. CONSERVATIVE "AL ANWAR" REPORTS: ASSEM KANSO OF SYRIAN BAATH PARTY SAID DECLARATION BY QUARTERS (JUMBLATT) THAT THEY WILL WORK FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION IN DELICATE STATE THROUGH WHICH COUNTRY IS PASSING IS MEANS OF PUSHING AMERICAN CONSPIRACY TO ACHIEVE ITS AIMS, WHICH ARE DIVIDING THE NATION, LIQUIDATING THE NATIONAL (LEFTIST) MOVEMENT, AND DESTROYING THE (PALESTINIAN) RESISTANCE MOVEMENT." FALANGE ORGAN "AL AMAL" QUOTES PRO-SYRIAN NATIONAL AND NATIONALIST PARTIES AND FORCES AS SAYING IN PAYW OF LEBANESE CRISIS AFTER ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT AND RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT FRANJIEH IS TO BRING SYRIAN FORCES IN TO PARTICIPATE IN ESTABLISHING SECURITY IN LEBANON. AFTER POPULAR GROUPS...SUCCEEDED IN FOILING VISIT OF AMERICAN ENVOY DEAN BROWN...ISOLATIONIST FORCES CARRIED OUT SERIES OF SUSPICIOUS MOVES...AIMING AT INTERNATIONALIZING LEBANESE CRISIS AND PARTITIONING COUNTRY."

4. CONSERVATIVE "AL ANWAR" AND OTHER PAPERS CARRY PROMINENTLY STATEMENTS BY PLO'S FAROUK KADDOUMI IN TOKYO THAT "CIA GIVES ARMS TO THE TWO SIDES IN THE LEBANESE CIVIL WAR" AND "FRENCH MEDIATION FAILED BECAUSE AGENTS, BACKED BY CIA, CONTINUED FIGHTING AND KIDNAPPING."

5. LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN NAHAR" CARRIES LENGTHY INTERVIEW WITH KAMAL JUMBLATT. MUCH OF JUMBLATT'S COMMENT EXTREMELY AMBIGUOUS AND DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO CRITICIZE PRIMIN KARAMI AND SYRIAN INITIATIVES. IN DOING SO HE DISCUSSED THREE VISITS MADE TO HIM BY AMBASSADOR BROWN, AND AMERICAN POLICY AS FOLLOWS: "BROWN SAID WE WERE RIGHT IN EVERYTHING WE ASKED FOR BECAUSE WITH HIS AMERICAN MENTALITY AND AS A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR HE THINKS RATIONALLY AND HE AND I WOULD NEVER ACCEPT CONFESIONAL DISCRIMINATION EXISTING IN LEBANON. ALSO MR. GORSE NAMED SOME TRADITIONALISTS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03789 01 OF 02 281647Z

AND DESCRIBED THEM HARSHLY...WHEN MR. BROWN FIRST CAME HE FELT THAT SYRIAN MEDIATION DID NOT STOP AT ITS DEFINED SIX POINTS...AND THIS SUBJECTED SYRIAN INITIATIVE TO GREAT DANGER...THEN BROWN CAME TO FIND OUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO SYRIAN INITIATIVE WHICH HAD DROWNED ITSELF IN THINGS WHICH HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH MEDIATION. WHEN DIRECT SYRIAN INTERVENTION DEVELOPED...AND SIXTH FLEET WAS ASSEMBLED NEAR OUR

LEBANESE COAST...AMERICAN ATTITUDE CHANGED AND SPEECHES OF APPRECIATION WERE MADE BY FORD REGARDING SYRIAN INTERVENTION WITHIN ACCEPTED FRAMEWORK... THEN CAME THIRD STAGE WHEN FRENCH PROPOSED COMBINED FRENCH-SYRIAN FORCES TO MAINTAIN SECURITY IN LEBANON. DURING THIS STAGE KISSINGER SAID HE CONSIDERED IT IS NOT DESIRABLE TO HAVE FOREIGN FORCES PARTICIPATE IN SECURITY AFFAIRS IN LEBANON AND THAT ISSUE WILL BE SOLVED INTERNALLY.

6. GENERALLY LEFTIST WEEKLY "MAGAZINE" CARRIES LENGTHY ARTICLE WHICH READS IN PART: "U.S. SPECIAL ENVOY BROWN IS CAREER DIPLOMAT, MAYBE MORE. HE IS ESPECIALLY A MAN WHO MEASURES HIS WORDS. IF HE AVOIDED CONFIDENCES, HE COULD NOT REFRAIN DURING HIS CONTACTS FROM LETTING OUT SOME REMARKS...THESE ARE INDICATIONS OF THE BACKGROUND FROM WHICH HIS OPINION WILL BE DRAWN...THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, WHICH IF NOT AGREEABLE APPEARED AT LEAST NOT OPPOSED TO THE IDEA OF PARTITION OF LEBANON, HAS CHANGED ITS MIND AND GIVEN THIS UP...THE U.S. IS WILLING TO GIVE NEW CHANCE TO FORMULA OF COEXISTENCE...MR. BROWN REPEATEDLY HINTED HE SEES MARONITES ASSUMING 'A NEW ROLE IN A NEW LEBANON' WHOSE SYSTEM WOULD BE ADAPTED AND NOT TRANSFORMED. INCIDENTALLY MR. BROWN DOES NOT BELIEVE IN REVOLUTIONS OR IN SUDDEN MUTATIONS... LEBANON IS GOING TO NEED FOREIGNERS. AND FIRST OF ALL HELP OF DAMASCUS. 'SYRIANS WILL BE ALONE IN LEBANON' BROWN SAID. MR. BROWN IS CONVINCED THAT SYRIANS WOULD WANT TO STAY IN LEBANON FOR SHORTEST PERIOD OF TIME POSSIBLE. 'I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO MEET SYRIANS OR YASSER ARAFAT...BUT INSTRUCTIONS PROHIBIT ME FROM DOING SO.' MR BROWN EVEN HINTS THAT AMERICAN ACTION IN LEBANON IS IN HARMONY WITH SOVIET POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST...REGARDING MISSION OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 03789 01 OF 02 281647Z

MR. GORSE, THIS IS, ACCORDING TO BROWN, PARALLEL TO HIS AND COMPLEMENTARY TO IT. OF PRESIDENT CHAMOUN, MR. BROWN DRAWS A FLATTERING PORTRAIT. 'HE IS VERY INTELLIGENT AND VERY STRONG,' HE SAYS. HE FOUND SHEIKH PIERRE GEMAYEL PATRIOTIC AND SINCERE WITH NO POLITICAL AMBITION...

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03789 02 OF 02 281702Z

41

ACTION NEA-01

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O R 281610Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9808

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USINT BAGHDAD

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 3789

7. MASS-CIRCULATION, OPPORTUNISTIC "AL HAWADETH"
FOR SECOND WEEK CARRIES VARIOUS ARTICLES TOUCHING
ON BROWN'S ACTIVITIES. EXTRACTS INCLUDE: 'WE
MET AND EXCHANGED POINTS OF VIEW, BUT THERE WAS NO
AGREEMENT ON KIND OF EFFORTS TO BE MADE.' THIS WAS
ANSWER OF FRENCH EMISSARY GORSE WHEN HE WAS ASKED
ABOUT POINTS OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN HIMSELF AND
AMERICAN EMISSARY BROWN. INFORMED SOURCES SAID
DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO MEN WAS CONCENTRATED
AROUND NATURE OF SYRIAN MOVE. IT WAS ALSO KNOWN
THAT GORSE TOLD BROWN WASHINGTON IS PARTY PUTTING
OBSTACLES BEFORE SYRIAN MEDIATION IN LEBANON BY
WARNING OF ISRALI MILITARY INTERVENTION, THOUGH
U.S. IS ISRAEL'S MASTER. BROWN TRIED TO DEFEND
HIS POINT OF VIEW ON THIS SUBJECT BY SAYING PRESIDENT
FORD CANNOT EXERCISE ANY PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT IN
ISRAEL DURING U.S. ELECTION PERIOD. SECOND DIS-
AGREEMENT WAS ABOUT JOINT FORCES REQUIRED TO KEEP
ORDER FOR SIX MONTHS FOLLOWING ELECTION OF NEW
PRESIDENT. AMERICAN WANTS UN TO BE FOURTH PARTNER
WITH SYRIANS, LEBANESE AND PALESTINIANS WHILE GORSE
DEMANDED SYMBOLIC FRENCH FORCES BECAUSE FRENCH
FRIENDSHIP TO ALL ARABS MAKES FRANCE AN ACCEPTABLE
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03789 02 OF 02 281702Z

REFEREE...AFTER HIS FIRST MEETING WITH JUMBLATT,
BROWN DIDN'T HIDE HIS ADMIRATION FOR OPPOSITION
LEADER. THAT MADE ONE OF KASLIK LEADERS ACCUSE

BROWN OF BEING BRAIN-WASHED BY JUMBLATT. FOLLOWING
SECOND MEETING BROWN TALKED ABOUT JUMBLATT WITHOUT
MENTIONING HIS NAME AND SAID THAT EITHER JUMBLATT
HAD CHANGED HIS POSITION OR BROWN HAD MISUNDERSTOOD
HIM...WESTERN OBSERVERS IN BEIRUT SAY KISSINGER FELL
INTO ISRALI TRAP IN LEBANON AND THEY OFFER MANY
PROOFS OF HIS POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT AND HIS
ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE BLOODY EVENTS IN LEBANON BY
SAYING KISSINGER ENCOURAGED CONSTITUTIONAL COUP
D'ETAT TO FORESTALL POSSIBLE COUP BY LEFTISTS.
IN THIS RESPECT FRENCH PRESS AND VATICAN SOURCES SAY
KISSINGER MISJUDGED SITUATION OR AMBASSADOR GODLEY
MISINFORMED HIM...THEN U.S. BYPASSED ITS EMBASSY IN
BEIRUT, CONSULTING MOSCOW, DAMASCUS, RIYADH AND CAIRO
TO PATCH UP THINGS IN LEBANON AFTER EVERYTHING HAD
GOTTEN OUT OF HAND...AND IF KISSINGER STARTED FIRE
IN LEBANON, ISRAEL KEPT IT GOING VIA ITS AGENTS
SCATTERED SECRETLY BEHIND FIGHTING LINES.
WARING

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